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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/972,100	10/05/2001	Andrew Rankin	LSI30US01(LSI 01-225)	4348

7590 06/23/2003

LSI LOGIC CORPORATION
MAIL STOP D-106
1551 McCARTHY BOULEVARD
MILPITAS, CA 95035

EXAMINER

THOMPSON, ANNETTE M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2825

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/972,100	RANKIN, ANDREW
	Examiner	Art Unit
	A. M. Thompson	2825

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 April 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 1-9 and 17-25 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 10-16 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 05 October 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on 02 April 2003 is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ . 6) Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's Amendment A to 09/972,100 has been examined. The drawings and specification are amended. Claims 1, 3-10, 12-17 and 19-25 are amended. Claims 1-25 are pending.

1. Applicant's Amendment obviates the existing rejections and objections of record. However, specification and drawing informalities preclude allowance of the instant application. Additionally, new grounds of rejection have been applied to claims 10-16.

Specification

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Applicant's claims are primarily directed to a method that includes a *Verilog to Spice converter* and a *Spice to Verilog converter*.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because Applicant's abstract must be revised to properly disclose the substance of Applicant's invention. Applicant discloses a method for translating a Verilog format circuit description to a SPICE format circuit description and then allowing simulation in the SPICE format.

Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

3. Figures 1, 4 and 5 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to

avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Rejection of claims 10-16

5. **Claims 10-16** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Michael Naum et al. (Naum) paper entitled Automatic Functional Model Validation Between Spice and Verilog. The Naum paper outlines a method that uses SPICE models in conjunction with Verilog models to validate the functionality of a Verilog library.

6. Pursuant to claims 10-16, the Naum paper §§ II and IV. discloses the limitations of these claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 1-9 and 17-25 are allowed.

8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art does not teach or suggest a method of circuit design wherein one function block of the design, designed in Verilog and converted to SPICE, is combined and simulated with another function block of the design already designed in SPICE .

Remarks

9. Applicant asserts lack of knowledge for labeling Figure 1 –Prior Art--. However, the figure 1 process disclosed by Applicant as a non-specific “overview of a design process”, is well known in the art of integrated circuit design. See e.g., U.S. Patent 6,470,482 to Rostoker et al., in particular Figures 9 and 17; also see U.S. Patent 6,526,562 to Haddad et al., in particular Figures 1A and 1C.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Please reference the PTO-892 for a complete listing.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to A.M. Thompson whose telephone number is (703) 305-7441. The Examiner can usually be reached Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Matthew S. Smith, can be reached on (703) 308-1323.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956 or the Customer Service Center whose telephone number is (703)306-3329.

12. Responses to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

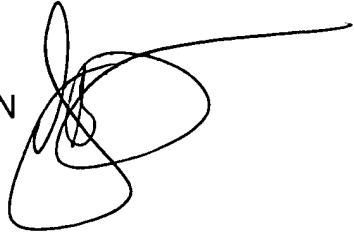
(703) 872-9318, (for **OFFICIAL** communications intended for entry)
(703)872-9319, (for Official **AFTER-FINAL** communications)

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Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Plaza 4, 2021 South Clark Place, Arlington, VA., Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

A. M. THOMPSON
Patent Examiner



19 June 2003